

## **fast tailed girl**

in their famished eyes,  
we were prey.  
women we thought we had  
a few more years to meet.

it was an unjust  
rite of passage  
for girls whose bodies  
were full as oceans  
with waves that didn't fit  
quietly in an hourglass.

time ran out on our  
carefree girlhood.  
our bodies ceased  
belonging to us.  
every wandering eye  
became the highest bidder.

boys grabbed  
our blooming bodies  
and gave no regard  
to our withering petals.

men who were old enough  
to be our fathers  
waited for our ripe bodies  
to fall from our mothers' trees  
as if they were entitled to our fruit.

we began to resent  
the womanly stranger  
extending from our bodies.  
others did too.  
we were fast tailed girls for  
garnering unwanted attention.

we wanted to shrink  
into ourselves  
and become invisible.  
we just wanted to be children.